PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q80613

Yoshinori KAWAMURA, et al.

Appln. No.: Unknown

Confirmation No.: Not yet assigned

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Filed: March 24, 2004

Examiner: Not yet assigned

For:

SHEET SUCKING/REMOVING METHOD AND SHEET SUCKING/REMOVING

DEVICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents, other than any U.S. patents and patent publications, is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

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In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)

for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations: English

language abstracts, submitted herewith, constitute concise statements of relevance for

Japanese Application Laid-Open Publication Nos. 2002-128297, 2001-151360, and

2000-247489.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such

document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does

not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise

remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present

application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 24, 2004

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| Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO | | | | Complete if Known | | | |
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| | | | | Application Number | Unknown | | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE | | | | Confirmation Number | Not yet assigned | | |
| STATEMENT BY APPLICANT | | | ANT | Filing Date | March 24, 2004 | | |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Yoshinori KAWAMURA, et al. | | |
| (use as many sheets as necessary) | | | | Art Unit | Not yet assigned | | |
| | | | | Examiner Name | Not yet assigned | | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | Q80613 | | |

| | | | U.S. | PATENT DOCUM | ENTS |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Examiner Initials* | | Document | Number | | |
| | Cite No. ¹ | Number | Kind Code ² (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Examiner Cite Initials* No.1 | Foreign Patent Document | | | Publication Date | Name of Patentee or | | |
| | | Country Code ³ | Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | MM-DD-YYYY | Applicant of Cited Document | Translation ⁶ |
| | | JP | 2002-128297 | A | 05/09/2002 | FUJI PHOTO FILM CO., LTD. | Abstract |
| | | JP | 2001-151360 | A | 06/05/2001 | FUJI PHOTO FILM CO., LTD. FUJI PHOTO OPTICAL CO., LTD. | Abstract |
| | | JP | 2000-247489 | A | 09/12/2000 | DAINIPPON SCREEN MFG. CO., LTD. | Abstract |
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| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|--|
| Examiner Cite Initials* No.1 jo | | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published. | ne, Translation ⁶ | |
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^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.